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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT January 22, 2014

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network: The Delta Restoration Network (DRN) met on November 7, 2013 to review the latest draft of the Delta Restoration Framework (Framework) and discuss the purpose and contents of the Regional Conservation Strategies identified in the Delta Science Plan. The DRN has received extensive comments on the Framework from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Central Valley Flood Control Association. A small core group of the DRN (open to anyone interested in participating) has been working to vet the key concepts in the Framework with leadership and staff in key agencies. The latest draft of the Restoration Framework and a presentation on Regional Conservation Strategies are available on the Conservancy's website.

The next DRN meeting will be in late January, date to be determined. The focus of that meeting will be the sharing of feedback from the agencies and potential revisions to the Framework.

The DRN Tracking group has started reaching out to entities conducting or permitting habitat restoration projects to assess the specific needs users have and the functionality users are looking for in an expanded EcoAtlas. Through this process a list of desired features will be developed that will help guide this project and inform the need for future work.

Chanel Margin Habitat: The Conservancy is seeking funds to implement a demonstration project—in partnership with state agencies and other organizations—utilizing a technology that can provide stability to levees and habitat for aquatic and avian species.

Finding Ways to Restore Delta Habitat and Protect Property Owners Workshop : The Conservancy and the Water Education Foundation (WEF) will be hosting two workshops in January designed to educate local communities about good neighbor policies. The workshops will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 1-5pm at Mokelumne High School Auditorium in Courtland, and on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 1-5pm at Roberts-Union Farm Center in Stockton. A white paper on the subject will be released prior to the workshops.

A Practical Workshop: The Science Behind Delta Climate Change Impacts: The Conservancy and WEF are hosting a 1-day workshop on climate change impacts that are specific to the Delta. This workshop will focus on the state of the science regarding specific impacts to the Delta and its resources. Potential topics include impacts to

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agriculture, commercial and recreational fisheries, ecology, infrastructure, and flood risk. The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at the West Sacramento Civic Center Galleria in West Sacramento.

California Wetland Protocol: The participating partners kicked off the development of a protocol with two stakeholder meetings and one technical group meeting in early December. Stakeholder meetings were held in Oakland and West Sacramento at the Coastal Conservancy and Delta Conservancy offices respectively. The technical group meeting was held in San Francisco. The stakeholder meetings were designed to inform interested stakeholders of the protocol development process and timeline and opportunities throughout the process to provide input. Presentations and notes from the meetings are available on the Conservancy website. A writing group (comprised of consultants and partners) will continue to meet to develop a first draft of the protocol by early summer 2014. This early draft will be shared with stakeholders.

Economic Development

Delta Branding and Marketing: Both branding and marketing are moving forward. Branding—with funding from the Delta Protection Commission (DPC)—actively began in January with small group and one-on-one meetings between Delta stakeholders and the branding consultant. Termed "Discovery Meetings", these discussions ask participants various questions to paint a picture of the Delta that the consultant can use to help develop the Delta Brand. Discovery meetings have been scheduled for January 15th and 23rd.

The marketing component—with funding from the federal Economic Development Administration—is still in the early stages. Conservancy staff is working through state contracting processes to release an Invitation for Bid to contract with a consultant to work with the community to develop and implement a marketing plan.

McCormack-Williamson: The Conservancy is partnering with the University of California Landscape Architecture Program to use McCormack-Williamson as a case study in a site design class and in studio projects for senior-level students. The design class will provide students with opportunities to model the site to gain a better understanding of the landscape using advanced computer graphics class and digital media. A number of students have been identified for the studio course and will be focusing on key components in the development of a recreation plan for the site, including ecological restoration, recreation, cultural aspects, and public participation. Most of this work is anticipated to be conducted during winter and spring quarters of 2014, but additional work may be identified and continue into fall 2014.

Agricultural Ombudsman: The Conservancy has submitted a concept proposal to the California Food and Drug Administration's Specialty Crop Block Grant program to fund a 3-year pilot program for a full-time Delta agricultural ombudsman. This position would coordinate with the part-time Yolo/Solano Farmbudsman. The Ombudsman would provide assistance with agricultural permitting, standards, and reporting. The ombudsman would help to facilitate and expedite the development and implementation of on-site agricultural projects such as farm stands and value-added processing, and off-site projects such as farmers markets and community supported agriculture. The Conservancy will find out in February if a full proposal has been requested.

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Education and Outreach

Water Quality: The Conservancy is partnering with state agencies and other organizations on water quality education and outreach and the Delta Waterway Cleanup. In celebration of Creek Week, the Conservancy is hosting 3 cleanup sites in the Delta, in partnership with Sacramento Area Creeks Council (SACC), Sacramento County Regional Parks, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, DPC, Rio Vista Windsurfing Association and the Sherman Island Kiteboarding Organization.

The Conservancy is seeking funding from several sources to support education and outreach partnerships with nonprofits or other agencies. The Conservancy has applied for grants from the Cornell Douglas Foundation, the Rose Foundation, the Clif Bar Foundation, and the SaveMart CARES Foundation. These funds will support the waterway cleanup, water quality monitoring, outreach to citizen groups, and provide classroom environmental education programs in Delta Schools.

The Conservancy received a \$10,000 grant for Watershed Protection from the Rose Foundation to fund water quality monitoring in the Marsh Creek Watershed. The Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, in partnership with the Conservancy, coordinated a workshop on water quality monitoring in December in Oakley; Conservancy staff provided technical training at this workshop.

The Conservancy also assisted the North Delta Conservancy with the development and submission of a grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the enhancement of its duck egg program. Funds will be used to promote duck egg rescue and conservation; make site improvements; and develop educational materials. The grant application was submitted on December 16th. The announcement of awards is anticipated for March 2014.

Community Training Program: The Conservancy is partnering with the Nonprofit Resource Center and the Delta Protection Commission to host a workshop entitled *Marketing Your Delta Business: Using Delta Stories and Cross-Promotional Strategies*. The workshop—scheduled for February 12 in Walnut Grove—is designed to support the Delta branding and marketing project and will focus on using Delta stories and cross-promotional strategies to market Delta farms and businesses.

CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

An attached budget update summarizes the budget plan and expenditure for Fiscal Year 2013-14

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NOVEMBER 27 BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS AND RESPONSES

1. Staff will include totals in future Board Budget Updates.

Response: The budget updates will include a total amount.

2. The Subcommittee will deliberate about whether or not to set up an Ad Hoc Budget Advisory Committee to work with the Executive Officer on fiscal issues.

Response: Staff will include this item in the agenda for the Program and Policy subcommittee meeting.

3. The Subcommittee will review information about the pending water bond legislation and may make a recommendation for Board consideration.

Response: Staff will include this item in the agenda for the Policy and Program Subcommittee meeting.

4. Staff will incorporate information on flood mapping in the Delta Climate Change workshop anticipated in February 2014.

Response: Staff is in discussions with WEF to include this in the workshop.

5. Staff will post the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 presentation on website.

Response: The presentation is posted on the Conservancy's web site.

6. Staff will explore the availability of mitigation funding for landowners challenged with increased flood insurance rates.

Response: Staff is continuing to explore the availability of these funds.

OUTREACH – DELTA MEETING MATRIX

An attached meeting matrix summarizes the most recent events and lists the key dates of future meetings.

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